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METRO WRITER REPORTS

PAGE 14



Wednesday, November 21,
2012

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A fuel plant that exploded at the beginning of October sent black smoke over most of Winnipeg. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Permit held by fuel plant wasn't for fuel: Report

Explosive. Facility was
permitted to make
windshield washer fluid

A Winnipeg radio station is
reporting that a fuel plant
where an intense fire led to
hundreds of evacuations last
month didn't have a permit to
store biofuel.

Deputy fire chief Bill Clark
told the station (CJOB) that
Speedway International re-
ceived a permit in 2000 for a
windshield washer manu-
facturing plant.

A fire inspection followed
in 2001.

He says Speedway didn't
apply for a new permit — as it
should have — when the
warehouse began to store bio-
fuel.

The radio report also says

no further fire inspections
were done at the St. Boniface
plant because they weren't
mandatory.

St. Boniface city Coun. Dan
Vandal says such inspections
should be done annually.

"It's totally unacceptable,"
he said. "We're fortunate that
nobody died in this incident.
Somewhere along the line
the whole process is defi-
cient, it's dangerous and we
need to change it."

The report, based on docu-
ments obtained through Free-
dom of Information, also says
the plant didn't have a safety
plan approved by the fire
department. Firefighters who
responded to last month's
blaze didn't know the type or
quantity of hazardous materi-
als they were dealing with.

A statement released by
Speedway International said

they did tell the province
they were producing biofuel
but were never told they
needed a new permit.

The Manitoba fire commis-
sioner's office has ruled that
spontaneous combustion in
an oily substance sparked the
fire at the business, which
produced biodiesel, racing
car methanol and windshield
washer fluid.

Speedway International
has said that it was federally
licensed, had complied with all
regulatory safety stand-
ards and codes and that no
human error, equipment fail-
ure or negligence contributed
to the fire.

Hundreds of people were
forced from their homes as
the fire lit up the night
sky Oct. 1. It caused about
\$15 million in damage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians sweet on pot

Poll shows majority favour
relaxing marijuana laws PAGE 7

Sex, lies & Sesame Street

Elmo puppeteer resigns as
scandal broadens PAGE 5

Life of Pi rocks the sea

Ocean a powerful symbol
in coming-of-age tale PAGE 11



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Health services. Cancer hubs coming to several Manitoba cities

The Manitoba government plans to expand cancer services by creating new regional treatments hubs in Brandon, Selkirk, Steinbach and Thompson.

The government says the hubs will allow patients to receive more care closer to home.

It's part of a plan to upgrade 16 chemotherapy centres to offer a complete range of cancer services.

Premier Greg Selinger says the government will also hire 50 more front-line staff, including pathologists and technologists.

Another goal is to offer more after-hours care for



Premier Greg Selinger speaks to media Tuesday. Selinger said more front-line health staff will be hired to offer cancer services.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

cancer patients and to introduce digital mammography. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Opposition attack. Tories accuse NDP of breaking budget promise

Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger is defending his shifting budget position in the face of opposition accusations that he has broken a promise to balance the books by 2014.

"We have always said that we will continue to shrink the gap between expenditures and revenues. We will do that while protecting those front-line services that matter to Manitobans," Selinger said Tuesday during the first question period of the fall legislature sitting.

"We've seen other provinces that have also experienced challenges going forward. Economic forecasts are saying that ... there will be a reduction in economic growth."

The Opposition Tories pointed out that the NDP government had made firm promises to end five years of consecutive deficits by the 2014-15 fiscal year. The commitment was written into the province's balanced budget law in 2009 and repeated at the start of the 2011 election. Recently, the spring budget said

INCOME-TAX EXEMPTION

- While the Progressive Conservatives called on the government to balance the books, their new leader Brian Pallister also demanded a rise in the basic personal exemption on income tax — a move which could cost the treasury another \$100 million or more a year.

the province was headed out of the red by 2014.

That all changed this week when Selinger said he was giving his government "wiggle room" to run deficits longer.

Manitoba is not alone in facing more red ink.

Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said last week that a weak global economy means the federal deficit will be \$5 billion higher than predicted this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Bike to the Future executive director Mark Cohoe is concerned about the safety of cyclists and pedestrians if speed limits are increased on city streets.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Cyclists not sold on speed-limit increases

Slow down. Bike to the Future says faster cars could be a hazard for other road users



SHANE GIBSON

shane.gibson@metronews.ca

While the province's Highway Traffic Board considers increasing the speed limit on a number of Winnipeg streets, a group of city cyclists who advocate for bike safety say not so fast.

Bike to the Future executive director Mark Cohoe

told Metro the group would meet Tuesday night to discuss the changes proposed for many four-lane divided streets in Winnipeg.

"It really seems they haven't thought about cyclists," said Cohoe. "They are just thinking about how to get cars moving quicker but they have to put the context of all road users into consideration, as well."

The Highway Traffic Board has reviewed all the existing 50-km/hr four-lane divided roadways within the city and is considering increasing them to 60-km/hr.

Board chair Al Rivers explained the idea is to eliminate

sections where speed limits suddenly change—which have become popular spots for cops to set up speed traps.

"It's just far too confusing," said Rivers. "Our job is to make everything as consistent as possible, and when you do that the roadways become safer."

Among the dozens of roadways being considered for increases are University Crescent between Chancellor Matheson Road and Pembina Highway, Broadway between Osborne Street and Main Street and Moray Street between Portage Avenue and Ness Avenue.

Cohoe is also worried about pedestrian safety on roadways like Waverly Street between Taylor Avenue and Grant Avenue that have residential houses on both sides.

"It seems like they've gone with the decision that if a roadway is divided it automatically goes to a higher speed limit, and for some of the areas that doesn't really make a lot of sense," he said.

The board has three public hearings planned for Nov. 27, Dec. 4, and Dec. 11 to go over the proposed changes with Winnipeggers, and Rivers said it's too soon to say if or when limits will increase.

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Elmo puppeteer resigns amid sex allegations

Kevin Clash. The man who created the iconic red furry puppet steps down as new underage-sex accusations surface

Quote

"Elmo is bigger than any one person."

A Sesame Workshop statement explaining last week that Elmo is not defined by one person and others have been trained as Clash's stand-in. It remains unclear who will take over the role now.

Elmo puppeteer Kevin Clash resigned from Sesame Street on Tuesday amid allegations he sexually abused underage boys, bringing an end to a 28-year career in which he turned the furry red monster into one of the most beloved — and lucrative — characters on TV and in toy stores.

Sweden

Woman charged with necrophilia

A woman in Sweden has been accused of necrophilia after investigators found some 100 skeleton parts in her apartment.

The Swedish news agency TT cites prosecutor Kristina Ehrenborg-Staffas as saying that the 37-year-old woman is suspected of using the remains, which included six skulls and one backbone, in "sexual situations."

The woman, from southwestern Sweden, was charged with "violating the peace of the deceased" in Goteborg District Court on Tuesday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

"Personal matters have diverted attention away from the important work Sesame Street is doing, and I cannot allow it to go on any longer," the 52-year-old performer said in a statement.

"I am deeply sorry to be leaving and am looking forward to resolving these

personal matters privately."

His departure came as a 24-year-old college student, Cecil Singleton, sued Clash for more than \$5 million Tuesday, accusing the actor of engaging in sexual behaviour with him when he was 15. Singleton charged that Clash made a habit of trolling gay chat lines for underage boys and meeting them for sex.

It was the second such allegation in just over a week. On Nov. 12, a man in his 20s said he had sex with Clash at age 16. A day later, though, the young man recanted, saying their relationship was adult and consensual. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Murder. McAfee blogs about watching police search for him in Belize

Software company founder John McAfee says he's hiding in plain sight, wearing a disguise as he watches police and reporters stake out his home — and blogging about it all.

In the latest twist in the highly publicized case, McAfee has started his own blog, in which he describes life on the lam after police in Belize called him a "person of interest" in the slaying of fellow American Gregory Viant Faull and asked him to turn himself in for questioning.

In phone interviews with The Associated Press, McAfee has never said where he's hid-

ing. But in his blog this week, he claims to have disguised himself as a grungy street peddler and a foul-mouthed German tourist and claims he approached an Associated Press reporter outside his staked-out home on the Caribbean island of Ambergris Caye and almost sold the reporter a wood carving.

It's hard to separate fact from fiction in the whole account, but one thing is clear — seldom has there been more detailed coverage of someone on the lam since O.J. Simpson led police on a low-speed chase in 1994.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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On the brink of peace?

Midnight tension.

Talks on a Gaza ceasefire drag on amid optimism — but Israel and Hamas trade blistering blows

Israel and Hamas edged closer to a ceasefire late Tuesday night.

But after a day of furious diplomatic efforts involving the U.S. secretary of state, the United Nations chief and Egypt's president, a deal remained elusive.

Meanwhile, fighting raged on both sides of the border.

Israeli tanks and gunboats

Death toll mounts

The toll in the Gaza war:

- Palestinians.** More than 130 Palestinians, both militants and civilians have been killed in Gaza.
- Israelis.** Four Israeli civilians and one soldier have been killed.

pummelled targets in Gaza in what appeared to be a last-minute burst of fire, while at least 200 rockets were fired into Israel.

As talks dragged on near midnight, UN ambassadors announced the Security Council will hold an open debate on the Gaza crisis Wednesday afternoon if a ceasefire is not called before then.

Earlier in the day, optimism was rampant.

Egypt's President Mohamed Morsi predicted Israeli airstrikes would soon end.

And Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country would be a "willing partner" to a ceasefire with Hamas, the Islamic militant group.

A top Hamas official, too, said a pact was close — even as the relentless airstrikes and rocket attacks continued.

Israel demands an end to rocket fire from Gaza and a halt to weapons smuggling into Gaza through tunnels under the border with Egypt.

Hamas wants the Israelis to halt all their attacks on Gaza and lift the crippling restrictions on trade and movement in and out of the territory.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Their young world collapses: Children stand in the rubble left after an Israeli strike on a house in Gaza City on Tuesday. HATEM MOUSSA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Curbside justice

Suspected traitors shot on street

Masked gunmen publicly shot dead six suspected collaborators with Israel at a large Gaza City intersection Tuesday, witnesses said.

An Associated Press reporter saw a mob surrounding five of the bloodied corpses shortly after the killing.

Some in the crowd stomped and spat on the bodies.

A sixth corpse was tied to a motorcycle and dragged through the streets as the crowd of people screamed, "Spy! Spy!"

The Hamas military wing, Izzedine al-Qassam, claimed responsibility in a large handwritten note attached to a nearby electricity pole.

Hamas said the six were killed because they gave Israel information about fighters and rocket-launching sites. Hamas did not provide any proof of the alleged collaboration.

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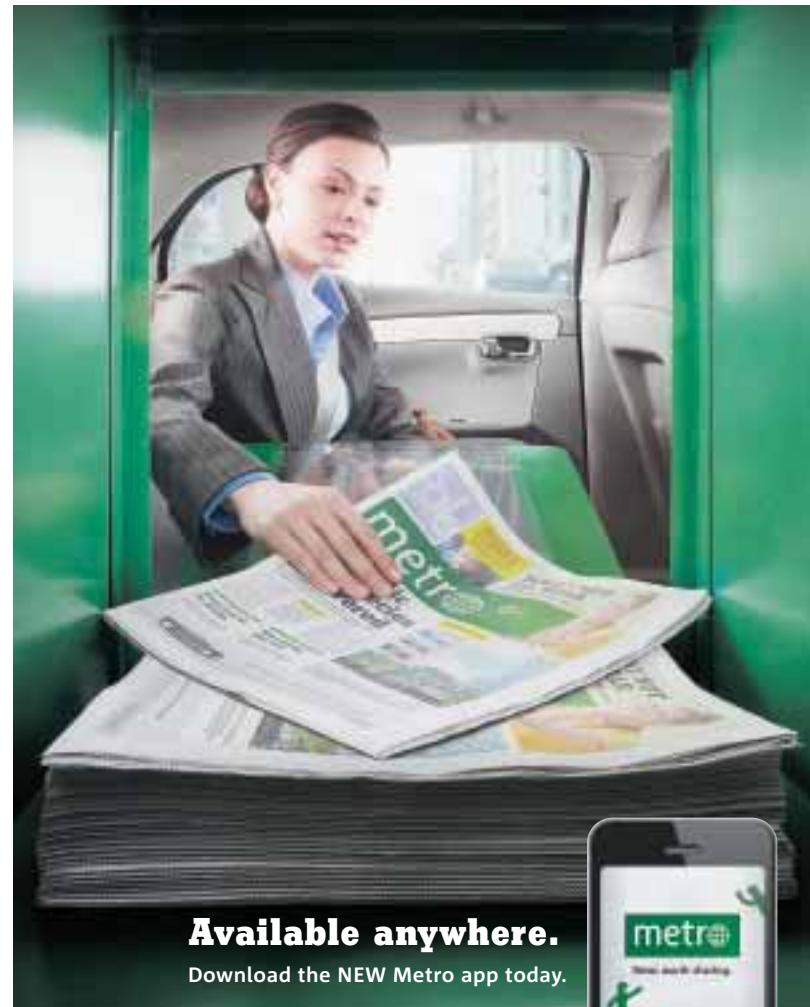


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Saskatchewan. Province loosens liquor laws, but won't go the full monty

Saskatchewan is offering new liquor laws that peel back a long-held prohibition against bars serving booze at stripteases, but the rules stop short when it comes to taking it all off.

The province announced more than 70 new liquor regulations Tuesday, including the move to allow alcohol to be served at striptease performances and wet clothing contests. But it won't allow full-frontal nudity and the sale of liquor to be mixed.

"Prohibition against full nudity is still going to be enforced in Saskatchewan, but we will allow some stripping," said Donna Harpauer, minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority.

Saskatchewan is the only province that doesn't allow stripping and alcohol sales.

Harpauer said the new rule brings Saskatchewan in line with New Brunswick, where genitals must be covered for men and women and women must have some coverage of their breasts. Decorative nipple coverings, commonly known as pasties, are allowed under Saskatchewan's new rules.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Lascivious legs and liquor have had a divided history in Saskatchewan, but new laws will allow the sale of alcohol alongside stripteases. GETTY IMAGES

exotic dancing-type without full nudity in the province," said Donna Harpauer, minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority.

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THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canucks favour relaxed pot laws

Puff popularity. New poll suggests that only a very small minority want tougher rules

A new poll shows a clear majority of Canadians support loosening the country's marijuana laws, a stance that seems to be starkly out of sync with the federal government's current pot policy.

According to the poll, released Tuesday by Toronto's Forum Research, 65 per cent of Canadians favour either the legalization and taxation of the drug or decriminalizing it in small amounts.

"Very few want the law to be as it is," said Forum president Lorne Bozinoff, pointing out that 17 per cent believe Canada's current pot laws should remain, while 15 per cent want tougher rules.

"Public opinion has been



Legalization in Colorado and Washington State has prompted a surge in the decades-old debate over marijuana laws. ED ANDRIESKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ahead of government on this issue for a while."

Under the Conservatives, Ottawa has veered toward harsher penalties for marijuana, increasing potential prison time and imposing mandatory jail sentences for growing six or more weed plants.

These strategies have drawn criticism from scientists and organizations such as the Brazil-based Global Commission on Drug Policy, which in March called them "destructive, expensive and ineffective."

Recent developments in the U.S., where marijuana was legalized in Colorado and

Washington State in election-day plebiscites, have brought attention to the issue in Canada.

"I think (the Conservatives) have a morally based belief model, which is not based on evidence," said Richard Mathias, a professor of public health at the University of British Columbia. "It is paternalism in the extreme."

Last week, Liberal leadership candidate Justin Trudeau came out in favour of decriminalization, while leaving the door open to legalization, should he ever come to power.

Tom Stamatakis, president of the Canadian Police Association, said the public is too hasty to favour relaxing weed laws.

"We don't have the tools and the training available to us now to ensure that people aren't driving cars, for example, or operating machinery, while they're impaired by marijuana," he said.

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Air travel

WestJet customers may get mobile entertainment

WestJet Airlines plans to test a new entertainment system next year that will allow passengers to use their tablets, computers and smart phones to access in-flight television and connect to the Internet, CEO Gregg Saretzky said Tuesday.

The new system could eventually lead the Calgary-based airline to do away with seat-back systems and shed weight from each aircraft. "It will remove about 1,200 pounds from the aircraft and with the cost of fuel, that's a significant cost savings to us," he told a conference in Montreal.

Saretzky said the new system would improve the passenger experience because content would be beamed to personal devices, giving passengers the ability to select what they watch.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Research in Motion

Analyst gives BB10 improved odds

A prominent tech analyst is giving Research In Motion's new operating system a small but improved chance of success in the competitive smartphone market when it launches in early 2013.

Analyst Peter Misek of New York-based Jeffries & Company said Tuesday that he's still giving the BlackBerry 10 operating system only a 20 per cent to 30 per cent probability of success.

But that's an improvement on his previous assessment of a 10 per cent to 20 per cent chance of success — a change in opinion that he attributed to surprisingly strong support among some wireless carriers.

"Preliminary results from our quarterly handset survey indicate developed market carriers have a much more positive view of BB10 than we expected," Misek said in a research note. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rogue UBS trader gets 7-year sentence

London trial. 'There is a strong streak of the gambler in you,' judge tells man who lost \$2.2B

A rogue trader who lost \$2.2 billion US in bad deals at Swiss bank UBS was sentenced to seven years in prison Tuesday after being convicted in what prosecutors called the biggest fraud case in U.K. banking history.

Ghanaian-born Kweku Adoboli, 32, exceeded his trading limits and failed to cover his losses, allegedly faking records to hide his tracks at the bank's London office. At one point, Adoboli risked running losses of up to \$12 billion US.

"There is a strong streak of the gambler in you," Judge Brian Keith told Adoboli. "You were arrogant to think the bank's rules for traders did not apply to you."

Adoboli wiped away tears as Keith handed down his sentence.

A conviction for fraud carries a maximum jail term of 10 years. The 10-person jury at Southwark Crown Court in London found Adoboli guilty of two counts of fraud and innocent of four other false accounting charges.

Adoboli ran into trouble dealing in exchange-traded funds, complex financial prod-



Kweku Adoboli arrives at Southwark Crown Court in London on Nov. 15. On Tuesday, the former UBS trader was found guilty of two counts of fraud.

KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

By the numbers

\$12B

At one point, former UBS trader Kweku Adoboli risked running losses of up to \$12 billion US.

Det. Chief Insp. Perry Stokes of City of London Police, who led the investigation of Adoboli, had a different view, believing the trader's motive was "to increase his bonus, his status, his job prospects and his ego."

"Adoboli was a sophisticated fraudster," Stokes said. "He was one of the most accomplished fraudsters that I've seen in my time investigating serious fraud."

After questions were raised about his trading, Adoboli walked off the job and sent an email to colleagues saying what he had done. "I take full responsibility for my actions and the storm that will now ensue. I am deeply sorry to have left this mess for everyone and to have put my bank and my colleagues at risk," he wrote.

Prosecutors said it was the biggest fraud in British banking history, but it wasn't the largest trading loss. U.S.-based JPMorgan Chase lost at least \$5.8 billion US through bad trades at its London office, the bank's CEO Jamie Dimon said in July.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sponsorship. Hockeyville is latest casualty of NHL lockout

Kraft Canada cancelled its popular Hockeyville program Tuesday, a victim of the protracted National Hockey League lockout that is seeing sponsors as well as fans grow weary.

Kraft said it would give \$1 million to Hockey Canada affiliated minor hockey associations instead of the annual competition that rewards Canadian communities for their involvement in their local arenas.

Ken Wong, a marketing professor at Queen's University, said the decision was the latest sign that the NHL and its brand are in trouble.

"What I'm hearing in both the media and the person on the street is a growing resentment about (the lockout). It is OK if fans are resentful in a sense because that means they are emotionally attached, but now it is getting to the point of who cares," Wong said. "And when it gets to who cares, that's when a brand has big trouble, because it says now you've lost your relevance."

Consulting firm Brand Finance has estimated the lockout has cost the NHL nearly \$500 million in brand value and estimated its worth at \$1.15 billion US, down from \$1.6 billion US.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bribery charges laid against key players in U.K. media scandal



Andy Coulson, former chief communications adviser to British Prime Minister David Cameron, leaves court Aug. 16 after appearing on phone hacking charges. On Tuesday, he and four other people were charged with bribery in the newest twist in Britain's high-profile media scandal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Two former confidants of Britain's prime minister have been charged with conspiring to pay public officials in exchange for stories and information — the latest development in the country's establishment-shaking scandal over media malfeasance.

Britain's Crown Prosecution Services said Tuesday that former tabloid editors Andy Coulson and Rebekah Brooks were among five people being charged with conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office.

Prosecutors said that Brooks, a neighbour, close friend, and political ally of Prime Minister

David Cameron, conspired with journalist John Kay to funnel as much as \$160,000 to Ministry of Defence employee Bettina Jordan Barber in return for a stream of stories that were published in Rupert Murdoch's The Sun newspaper.

In a statement, the prosecutors alleged that Coulson, who until last year served as Cameron's top press aide, conspired with journalist Clive Goodman to pay officials for access to a royal phone directory known as the Green Book.

The charges stem from the phone hacking scandal that erupted last year at Murdoch's News of the World tabloid.

which Brooks and Coulson used to edit before she took a job as chief executive of News International and he went to work for the government.

The scandal exploded after it was revealed that News of the World journalists routinely hacked phones and paid bribes to win scoops.

The scale of wrongdoing was staggering — ruthless reporters violated the privacy of some 600 alleged victims, from powerful ministers to well-known celebrities and even crime victims.

The pair has in the past repeatedly denied any wrongdoing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prior charges

- Andy Coulson and Rebekah Brooks already face charges in relation to phone hacking. In July, prosecutors charged the pair with conspiring to intercept the communications of hundreds of people between 2000 and 2006.
- Brooks faces separate charges of obstruction of justice relating to her alleged attempts to hide evidence from police.

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JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

There's more evidence to prove that homo sapiens is descended from apes.

According to a study involving 500 great apes published in the, ahem, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, chimpanzees and orangutans experience a midlife crisis, just like us.

It's just more difficult to tell, as an ape with angst is unlikely to purchase a Porsche.

I knew it was hereditary! For all we know, it's as universal as life itself. Birds do it, bees do it, even educated fleas ... if you're alive, you know the exact moment when you're over the hill.

For humans, it's traditionally 45-55. Chimps turn into chumps around 27 or 28 and orangutans get the memo at about 35.

That's not great news if you live in a zoo, because you can expect to live to 50. That's 15-25 years of same-old, same-old: Monkey chow three times a day, stupid children banging on the glass while their parents take flash photos, and Bonzo over there keeps trying to horn in on your harem.

Of course, this could be more of a comment on the apes' handlers than on the apes themselves, as they were asked to fill out the forms documenting the general mood of their apes,

the joy their charges gained from socializing and how would they feel if they had to be an ape for a week.

After a very bad day of putting up with banana breath and monkeyshines, it's only human for a handler to project his or her feelings on the nearest living being, even if said being is more interested in another banana than anything else.

Whatever, the good news is that it gets better.

Just when Bonzo's grinning mug makes Cheetah want to throw his feces, he begins to realize that three squares ain't so bad. After all, he could still be stuck in some jungle in Botswana, dodging lions and poachers, rooting for termites with a stick.

This is roughly analogous to the process of acceptance in humans.

If we survive our midlife crisis without pitching our feces around the office or getting caught surfing NSFW on the Internet, we can look forward to increasing happiness that reaches its peak around 70.

Of course, there are good reasons old guys are happy. They get there early before the lineups. Plus they get the seniors' discount.

The bottom line: If you're feeling like the pack has passed you by, it has less to do with your sorry circumstances and more to do with your hormonal imbalance. Just hang on.

Primate Prime Time is about to begin.



I'm not monkeying around — apes experience a midlife crisis, too. IAN WALDIE/GETTY IMAGES

Royals' site causes security concerns



SAC FAYE STORER/MOD/WWW.DUKEANDDUCHESSOFCAMBRIDGE.ORG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tea-d off

Duke and duchess revamp website

This is an undated handout photo issued by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's website on Tuesday of Britain's Prince William making a cup of tea while working as a helicopter search and rescue pilot at RAF Valley on Anglesey, Wales.

Many of the exclusive pictures that gave an insight into the life of the flight lieutenant in Wales at his day-job as a Search and Rescue (SAR) pilot had to be taken down hours after they were posted due to security

concerns.

The pictures offered a rare look into the typical day in the life for Prince William in his work flying RAF Sea King helicopters from their base at RAF Valley on Anglesey, north Wales — from planning and preparing for any emergency callout to resting with his colleagues during downtime.

But the images also included unclassified user names, passwords and computer screens. Britain's Ministry of Defence said in a statement Tuesday that passwords and user names were reset as a precaution and that the photos were reissued. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Shift work

24 hrs

The latest post on the website detailed Prince William's typical schedule of a 24-hour shift as a pilot.

When duty doesn't call

- The site reveals that Call of Duty is a favourite among Prince Will and his friends.

- On Wednesday even more photos will be posted — this time by the Duchess — of the trip she and Will took to Asia in September.

- Will's current tour will end by fall 2013, and at that time he is set to decide if he wants to stay on for a few more years.



Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Are you afraid Canada could fall off the "fiscal cliff" along with the U.S.?



Twitter

@jgawaziuk:

IKEA in Winnipeg opens November 28. Just bought a condo, currently sitting on milk crates and sleeping on floor. Good timing.

@bensigurdson:

Tacos = the new sushi. MT @ ChrisDca: Taco Del Mar opening first Winnipeg restaurant soon at 1670 Kenaston Blvd.

@shelzolkewich:

Winnipeg recently got a bunch

of barbecue joints; now we're getting taco shops. This is not a bad thing.

@wpgsgeekygirl:

If they raise the speed limit on Grant I will stop taking Taylor LOL #winnipeg

@rockisreason:

Twenty one MILLION \$\$\$ on photo radar....Two murders in the North end last night, yeah Winnipeg.

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The long awaited screen adaptation of *The Life of Pi* finally arrives in theatres this weekend. HANDOUT

Ocean's raw power inspires, creates cinematic awe in Pi

New release. *Life of Pi* joins a long list of films who have used the beauty and the beast of the blue as a wild backdrop



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Joseph Conrad wrote of the ocean's awesome power: "The sea has never been friendly to man."

Less eloquent is this quote from *Beauty Queens* by Libba Bray: "You can't believe how bleeding scary the sea is! There's, like, whales and storms and s---t!"

Not to mention killer whales, giant waves and even H-bomb mutated giant octopuses!

The ocean and its power has been challenging cinematic sailors for decades.

From the early screen adaptations of *Moby Dick* to the crazy sea monsters of 1950s B-movies to this weekend's *The Life of Pi*, based on the megahit novel by Yann



Orca proved there was very little killer action in this flick. HANDOUT

Martel, the ocean has provided a wet and wild backdrop for Hollywood.

Pi's story of a boy set adrift on the ocean in a lifeboat with only a tiger for a companion is a coming-of-age story that uses the sea as a metaphor. Most films are more literal.

The giant wave that capsizes the ship in *The Poseidon Adventure* was no metaphor, it was a terrifying display of the ocean's power, even if it was filmed using a 21 foot 6

inch long miniature ship in a 300 by 350 foot water tank on a Hollywood stage.

Filmmakers have often looked to sea creatures for inspiration. Everything from *LOTR: Fellowship of the Ring* to *Sharktopus* features fantasy monsters unleashed by the deep. One of the best-known B-movies of the 1950s is *It Came From Beneath the Sea*, the story of a giant octopus awakened by the radiation from H-bomb tests.



The *Poseidon Adventure* used the ocean's terror as a driving force in the film. HANDOUT

The film was so low budget, special effects wizard Ray Harryhausen cut corners by building his octopus model with six rather than the usual eight tentacles. To cover his cheat, he posed the creature so viewers couldn't count the arms.

Finally, *Orca*, the best known of the killer whale movies, shows a much more real threat.

Or does it? The joke is that killer

Life of Pi

Life of Pi is a fantasy adventure novel by Yann Martel published in 2001.

- Background.** The main character, Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, a young Indian boy, explores issues of spirituality and practicality.

- Awards.** The book was chosen for CBC Radio's Canada Reads 2003. The year before, it won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction. Martel was the third Canadian to win.

whales aren't all that dangerous — to humans anyway.

"There has never been a substantiated case of an orca killing a man," wrote *Outside* magazine's Tim Cahill, "despite the 1977 movie *Orca*, in which a killer whale seeks revenge on Richard Harris by eating all his co-stars. The movie was so silly, unscientific and unbelievable that one critic suggested Harris fight a duel to the death with his agent for getting him the role."

SCENE 2

Furtado says farewell to 2012 with NYE bash

Niagara Falls. Canadian singer talks latest album while reflecting on the past year

ANNE BRODIE
scene@metronews.ca

Nelly Furtado will bid 2012 farewell and ring in 2013 by headlining Entertainment Tonight Canada's fourth annual New Year's Eve bash at Niagara Falls.

The show caps a busy time for Furtado — it follows the release of her latest album, recording with David Frost and Andre Bocelli and preparing for a Canadian tour launching in her hometown of Victoria on Jan. 8.

Congratulations on the New Year's Eve show. Why did you want to do it?

Last year, I had the pleasure of watching it on TV and I thought, "Wow, what a fun party" so I put it out there on some level, and the timing is really good with my tour with Hedley and the Dragonettes. I'm actually really excited about it.

As the headliner, you'll be onstage at midnight. Who are you going to kiss?
Well, my husband, but I don't want to do that on television, so I'll dance with wild abandon so people will forget that moment.

I'll be busy singing, but I'll be watching the other people kissing.

New Year's is time to party but also time to reflect. What are you grateful for these days?

I'm grateful to be Canadian, to live in a country with so many freedoms and liberty and peace, the ability to walk down the street and not worry about violence and I'm really grateful to be ambassador for Free the Children.

It's remarkably fulfilling for me and I meet pretty inspiring people.

Then you're touring Canada for The Spirit Indestructible. In the dead of winter!

Isn't that funny — a Canadian tour in dead of winter? I'm a true Canadian!

I'm kind of excited to think that, it has a ring to it. Guaranteed we'll be stuck in the snow.

The Spirit Indestructible

mixes musical influences and languages. It's so rich.
I think it's kind of creative rain, like what I had writing in Spanish.

It was very fulfilling and almost like an English drought. I had nothing to say in English for two or three years and one day the rain came down and hallelujah! Lord only knows what I'll do next.

It's been a rush of adrenaline and a creative high. I'm recording a follow-up in Spanish and a follow-up in English and Spanish.

Why did you draw inspiration from looking back to your early music?

I think the best songs look backward. Think how nostalgic Tragically Hip's Phantom Power is.

It makes you feel great. Bryan Adams' Summer of 69. It's truly reliving a moment sonically and if you can do that with music, you can time travel. It's fun for the listener and the creator.

Will your nine year old daughter Nevis be at the Falls show?

Every kid loves staying up till midnight. It's one of the greatest joys of the holidays!



Nelly Furtado is set to rock ET Canada's New Year's Eve at Niagara Falls on Dec. 31 at 10 p.m. on Global. GETTY IMAGES

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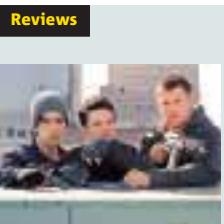


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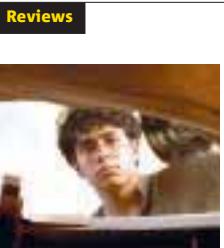
Red Dawn

Starring. Chris Hemsworth, Adrienne Palicki

Director. Dan Bradley

• • • •

The original Red Dawn was such a product of the Cold War paranoia that remaking it seems doomed for failure. Spokane, Wash., is the target of an invasion that leaves a group of students in the surrounding hills launching guerrilla-style assaults. A cyber weapon knocks out communications, ensuring that nothing modern is going to creep into this do-over that follows the original's plot points to a T. The cast are likeable and some of the action sequences are thrilling. But changing the invaders from Chinese to North Korean in post-production leaves gaps in the story and does little to boost the intimacy of the plot. **IAN GORMELY**



Life Of Pi

Starring. Suraj Sharma

Director. Ang Lee

• • • •

Based on Yann Martel's megahit 2001 novel, Life of Pi stars Suraj Sharma as Pi Patel, a 16-year-old boy set adrift on a lifeboat after the freighter his family was taking from India to a new life in Canada sinks. His companion is Richard Parker, a Bengal tiger, and refugee from the Patel family zoo. The metaphorical and introspective story is complimented by startlingly beautiful images and a spiritual undertow. Despite drifting off course from with some ill advised magic realism and some repetition, Lee for the most part steers the story into safe, comforting waters. **IAN GORMELY**

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Rise of the Guardians 3D (G)
No Passes Wed-Thu 4:45-7:30-
10:05

Famous Players
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1555 Regent Ave W,
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Rise of the Guardians (G) No
Passes

Landmark Globe Cinema
393 Portage Ave,
204-943-1583

Life of Pi 3D (PG) Wed-Thu
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Searching for Sugar Man
(PG) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun
1:15-3:30-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu
7:15-9:30

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Red Dawn (STC) Wed-Thu
7:9:15
Rise of the Guardians 3D (G)
Wed-Thu 6:50-9:15

Florida death row inmate may be involved in killing of O.J. Simpson's ex-wife: Documentary

A documentary about an inmate on Florida's death row says the convicted killer might have been involved in the murder of O.J. Simpson's ex-wife and her friend.

The Investigation Discovery show, *My Brother the Serial Killer*, will air Wednesday.

The doc is a look at Glen Rogers, who was convicted by a Florida jury in 1997 for killing a woman.

Rogers was also convicted of murder in California and is a suspect in homicides in several other states.

Rogers, who is from Hamilton, Ohio, met Nicole Brown Simpson in 1994 when he was living in Southern California, his family says in the documentary.

A criminal profiler in the film says he received paintings by Rogers with clues possibly linking him to the

1994 murders of Simpson's ex-wife and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Simpson was accused in those killings, but the so-called "trial of the century" in Los Angeles ended with his acquittal in 1995.

Simpson never testified at the criminal trial, but memorably demonstrated in court that a glove found near the slaying scene did not fit his hand. He testified at

length in a wrongful death trial that led a Los Angeles civil court jury in 1997 to find him liable for damages in the case.

Much of the film is narrated by Rogers' brother, Clay Rogers, who used to rob homes with Glen Rogers as a teen, but in 1993 called police on his brother after finding a body at the family's Kentucky cabin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Whisked away to Wales contest

In anticipation of the world premiere of *Liz & Dick*, enter for your chance to win a **five-night trip to their beloved Wales**.

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No purchase required. Contest runs from November 5, 2012 to December 16, 2012. Entries must be received by December 16, 2012 at 11:59:59 p.m. EST. There are a total of 10 prizes available to be won: (1) One 5 night, 6 day trip for two to Wales, including airfare, hotel, and ground transportation (approx. retail value \$35,000). (2) Six \$75 gift cards to be used at participating travel agents. (3) One \$75 gift card to be used at participating travel agents. Skill testing question required. Open to Canadian residents who are the age of majority in the province or territory of residence at time of entry. Excludes Quebec residents. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. Limit one entry per e-mail address per 24-hour period. For full rules and entry details visit <http://americas.visitwales.com/lizanddick>



Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Gomez and Bieber caught cuddling after AMAs

It's getting tough to keep track of where Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez are in their breaking up and making up.

After a fiery, argument-filled dinner this weekend that ended with Gomez storming off, the pair apparently reunited after the American Music Awards Sunday night to celebrate Bieber's wins, according to Us Weekly.

Gomez and Bieber hit up

a private party hosted by Bieber's manager, sticking to a hidden table in the back room with plenty of security around as they snuck in a few kisses, a source reveals, adding that they were, "dancing on each other. They seemed to be in great spirits and were clearly enjoying their time together."

They reportedly left together through a back exit at around 2:30 a.m.

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OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Rihanna's fans (hostages) finally released from her tour

THE WORD

Katarina Matsson
scene@metronews.ca

Monday night was Ri-Ri's final show in New York, finishing off a week of mayhem at 35,000 feet. Metro has been by her side for seven crazy days.

Back up by 24 hours: Prior to Monday's show in London, Rihanna was at the Westfield Shopping mall in Stratford (built just before the Olympic Games), to set the Christmas light display ablaze. Rumour has it she got \$793,000 to show up, but there's no confirmation yet. There, Rihanna holds the closest she has gotten to a press conference.

"I love this album like it wasn't my own!" she exclaims.

After one song, she takes off in a golf cart, leaving her fans disappointed.

"I've been waiting since 12 o'clock," fan Vanessa Leadbitter says. "I love Rihanna, but she could have played more than one song!"

Fast-forward five hours and we're at the venue: The Forum in London's Kentish Town area.

Rihanna enters on time (almost), which might have something to do with the fact that Jay-Z is livestreaming the gig. The star puts on her best performance since Stockholm, despite technical problems.

At the after-party, she's nowhere to be seen, but the backing band are pleased.

"It helps not being four hours late," one mutters.

At 3 a.m., the buses leave the hotel for the airport. A mere six hours after that, we're on the plane to New York.



Ashton Kutcher

Kutcher following Kunis around on her shooting schedule

Ashton Kutcher seems to be choosing where to spend his time these days based on where rumoured girlfriend Mila Kunis is shooting a movie.

After a few months in New York, the couple has now been spotted in Rome,

where Kunis is filming The Third Person, according to Hollyscoop.

They also found time for some romantic dinners out and strolling around the city hand-in-hand, doing little to keep their relationship under wraps.



Evan Rachel Wood

Wood shoots down pregnancy rumours

Newlywed Evan Rachel Wood is combatting pregnancy rumours after she was photographed this week in L.A. grabbing her stomach and wearing a baggy poncho while grocery shopping with husband Jamie Bell.

The speculation is unfounded, though, the actress insists.

"Sorry to disappoint. But no baby on the way here," Wood posted to Twitter after the photos hit gossip sites.

The pair quietly tied the knot three weeks ago.

Twitter



@Rosie

Ready for my post heart attack cardio work-out ... Starting not to hate it ... A huge plus



@ABFoundation

Canada is lovely. Canadians are lovely.



@EmmaBunton

I've been up so long feels like lunch time, hungry!



@prattprattpratt

A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down? But it doesn't help the diabetes. Think Poppins! You can't afford to lose another child.

Disney's Magic Europe

Starting June, 2013, the Disney Magic cruise ship sails to new ports in Turkey and Italy. Disney Cruise Line partners with local tourist companies to deliver unique family oriented Port Adventures. These pre-booked excursions include activities for the whole family. The Magic will have four, seven, and 12 days sailings to the Mediterranean this summer.

STORY AND PHOTOS: KATHY BUCKWORTH
life@metronews.ca

Turkey

A scavenger hunt in St. John Basilica has guests following clues and finding treasures to help an archaeologist (actor) solve a puzzle, while touring this ancient church, home to St. John the Apostle's burial spot. The hunt continues in the ancient Roman city of Ephesus, where groups can speak with a real archeologist to learn the art of a "dig"

and look for treasure. A lunch tour features Grecian gowns for guests to wear as they eat typical Roman food, meet Cleopatra and judge an epic battle between two gladiators. Disney gives parents the opportunity to shop in Sirince, while kids are given a lesson on how to make typical glass bead bracelets or necklaces. A trip to the traditional Turkish Bath is also organized.



Rome

Every Disney Mediterranean cruise stops in Rome, and most cruisers want to hit "the big five." The Vatican (museum), St. Peter's Basilica, the Coliseum, the Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain. There are a variety of port excursions to choose for these. Other Port Adventures include the Gallerie Borghese and Teatro del Burattino. Unique to Disney,

a puppet show in English delights the kids while parents grab 45 minutes of shopping (or a quick gelato) at the nearby Spanish Steps. Kids are supervised by youth counsellors from the ship; parents are welcome to stay. An adult-only activity is offered at the ArtStudio Café to create mosaic art under the direction of one of Rome's premier artists, while enjoying wine, local cheese and cured meats.

Venice

Venice is the only overnight stop on the 12-day cruise. Developed for kids, Venetian mask making is proving to be popular for families. Guidance is provided by professional mask makers as guests paint and decorate a unique souvenir. The Canottieri Bucintoro rowing club will take guests aged 16 and over for a unique three hour oppor-

tunity to learn how to row like a Gondolier in the waters of Venice. Participants are awarded a certificate in "voga veneta", as well as prosecco and snacks. Venice's most famous landmark, the Doge's Palace, is made available for a private tour after hours, and in true Disney style, a special reception at the end of the tour is hosted by Disney Princesses, who come ashore from the ship.



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Roasted Vegetable Quiche offers a hint of delicious cheesy indulgence

Roasted Vegetable Quiche



This recipe serves eight. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lemon Pecan Mousse Cake: A delicately sweet treat

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Lightly coat a 9-inch spring-form pan with baking spray.

2. In a food processor, combine the pecans, cake flour and 1/4 cup of the sugar. Process until finely ground. Transfer to a large bowl and set aside.

3. In bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the egg yolks and another 1/4 cup sugar until thick and pale. Set aside.

4. In another clean bowl with a clean whisk, beat together the egg whites, salt and the remaining 1/4 cup sugar until thick

Ingredients

For the pecan sponge cake:

- 5 oz (1 1/4 cups) pecans, toasted and cooled, plus a few more for garnish
- 1/2 cup sifted cake flour
- 3/4 cup sugar, divided
- 4 eggs, separated
- Pinch of salt

For the lemon mousse:

- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2/3 cup lemon juice
- Zest of 2 lemons
- 2 1/2 cups heavy cream



This recipe serves 12. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

and glossy stiff peaks form.

5. Gently fold the egg yolks and half of the egg whites into the pecan flour. Fold the remaining egg whites into the mixture until thoroughly but gently combined. Spoon the mixture into the prepared pan and bake for 30 to 40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted at the centre comes out clean. Set aside, in the pan, to cool completely.

6. While the cake is baking,

begin the mousse. In a medium saucepan, whisk together the cornstarch and sugar, then add the eggs and whisk until smooth. Add the lemon juice and zest, then set over medium heat. Whisking constantly, bring the mixture to a boil; cook until it thickens. If there are any lumps, strain the mixture. Transfer to a large bowl and refrigerate at least 2 hours.

7. Once cake and mousse base are cool, in bowl, use an electric

mixer to whip heavy cream to medium peaks. Fold half cream into the mousse base. When thoroughly combined, fold in the remaining whipped cream. Spoon mixture onto the cake. Garnish with toasted pecans and refrigerate at least 2 hours.

8. When ready to serve, run a paring knife around the edge of the pan and loosen the sides. Remove the sides of the spring-form pan and serve.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

No. 11

We're not sure why it's called No. 11 but this drink combines bitters with honey and vanilla for a very unique combination.

- Dash Angostura bitters
- 1 bar spoon of honey syrup
- 2 oz vanilla bean bourbon

Stir the Angostura bitters, honey syrup and vanilla bean bourbon; strain into a glass with ice and garnish with three brandied cherries.

METRO WORLD NEWS/JOHN MC CARTHY, WHITEHALL BAR AND KITCHEN IN NEW YORK



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 red bell pepper, cored and diced
- 1 small red onion, diced
- 1 small sweet potato, peeled and diced
- 1 medium zucchini, diced
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp minced fresh rosemary
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 prepared raw 9-inch pie crust
- 3/4 cup shredded cheese
- 6 eggs
- 1 cup half-and-half

Cornbread-Stuffing Mushrooms. An attractive appetizer



1. Heat the oven to 350 F.

2. Arrange the mushrooms on a rimmed baking sheet, gill sides up. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, then roast for 15 minutes.

3. Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium-high heat, melt the butter. Add the onion and leek and sauté until tender, about 7 to 8 minutes. Add the carrot, celery, thyme and rosemary and cook until tender, about another 5 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat and gently fold in the cornbread.

4. When the mushrooms are done, pour any liquid that has collected on the rimmed baking sheet into the cornbread mixture. If the mixture is dry,

sprinkle in a bit of vegetable broth. Gently mix. Spoon the mixture into the mushroom caps and return to the oven. Bake for 20 minutes, or until lightly browned on top.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 8 large portobello mushroom caps
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 medium leek, green and white parts, sliced
- 1 medium carrot, grated
- 1 celery stalk, finely diced
- 1 tbsp chopped thyme
- 2 tsp chopped rosemary
- 2 cups diced cornbread
- Vegetable broth, as needed

To market, to market to land a new gig

Create your dream career. How to break into the marketing field without a business degree

JUSTINE
ABIGAIL YU
TalentEgg.ca

"You're an artsie, you're an artsie, you're an artsie...but you'll always be an artsie and you'll never be employed!"

Or so the chant goes. This was one of the playful taunts that would be hurled at us arts students back in university.

I studied political science and sociology in my undergrad and one question I always used to get from family and friends was, "What are you gonna do with that?"

Well, let's just say I turned it into a blossoming career (modesty aside) in communications and marketing for the non-profit sector. It's not quite the traditional or linear route, but is there ever such a thing in life?

I first broke into the indus-



More than the degree, employers want to see that you can apply yourself creatively, so step up and show them something different. iSTOCK

try back in 2009 with a winning combination of great timing, determination, and good ol' fashioned hard work.

Social media (now part and parcel of marketing and communications) was just beginning to blow up in the non-profit world and I somehow nabbed myself a social media internship at an international development organization. Since then, I've worked in communications and marketing positions with non-profits and businesses alike. So how do I do it even

without the degree?

Hit the books

A lot of what I've learned has been self-taught. I hit the books and the blogs to learn about basic marketing principles and to keep up with the latest social media trends.

It's something that I haven't stopped doing since I entered the field. In the fast-paced technological world we live in today, it's essential to keep up with the latest trends to keep your edge.

Be a Jack of all trades and a master of one

Who ever said that this had to be an either/or option? I honestly believe that in today's world, it's not enough that you just specialize in one thing and one thing alone. You've got to have a wide and diverse set of skills to thrive in this dynamic and often uncertain economy.

That's why I continually build on my skill set, learning the basics of coding and Photoshop while exploring new tech tools available. Trust me, there is great value in this versatility

information from them as possible.

Market yourself

What kind of marketer or communicator would you be if you couldn't even sell yourself, right? Build your personal brand and carve a niche for yourself. Find a way to set yourself apart from the rest of the crowd. I've done that by making a home for myself on the Internet and giving an alternative to that boring old text-based resumé.

Fake it 'til you make it

The rest is what I like to call faking it 'til you make it. For a while, you'll feel like a bit of a sham working in the field without the degree or experience (I know I did!), but trust me, that stuff is overrated. Live and breathe the position you want to see yourself in and present yourself as such. Learn the ropes, work relentlessly hard, make those connections and before you know it, you've broken into the industry and are probably rocking it without even realizing it.

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4 SPORTS



Stampeders lineman Obby Khan arrives with his teammates in Toronto for the 100th annual Grey Cup on Tuesday. VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stamps cowboy-up for Toronto arrival

CFL. Lineman Khan and teammates 'representing Western Canada' upon touchdown in Ontario



Calgary offensive lineman Obby Khan has been to three Grey Cups in the past five seasons, so he considers himself something along the lines of the older, wiser, elderly statesman of his unit.

That's why, when the Stampeders landed in Toronto Tues-

Quoted

"I'm from Detroit. We don't do Cowboy."

Stampeders quarterback Kevin Glenn, who arrived in Toronto in a costly suit, a couple of high-end suitcases and a pair of Stampeders-red headphones.

day evening, Khan was among the players who elected to dress "cowboy" instead of suit and tie.

"Are you kidding, we're representing Western Canada," said Khan, the six-foot-four, 270-pounder who might have been the biggest cowboy on his team Tuesday night.

"You get a chance to dress up like this once a year if you

are lucky, so why not take advantage and have some fun. And it's natural for me, since I am the best-dressed, best-looking (offensive lineman) here."

The "older and wiser" reference is Khan's own phrasing. At 32, the Ottawa native is indeed the oldest O-lineman Calgary will suit up for the 100th Grey Cup Sunday against the Argos.

Khan was sporting a sheriff's badge on his plaid shirt. The badge is symbolic of his elderly status. Khan, though, fell short in the 2011 Grey Cup with Winnipeg, and suffered a leg injury in 2007 with the Bombers that kept him out of the game.

So when Stampeders coach John Hufnagel gave his club the

option to dress western or suit and tie for the trip to Toronto, Khan wasn't about to let the fun pass him by.

"I never cowboyed up before," Khan said.

"We went to these stores last night.... I didn't know pythonskin boots came in size 14."

That's the way the Stamps entered the Toronto scene.

The team aimed to hit the big city wrapped in a little western-themed clothing. The week will get progressively more intense and focused, so a little fun on the way in helped break up the seriousness that will be at hand in the 100th Grey Cup game Sunday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CFL

Ticats making move to Guelph during stadium construction

The Hamilton Tiger-Cats will play CFL home games next season at the University of Guelph while their new stadium is being built, says team president Scott Mitchell.

The university stadium only has 7,500 seats currently and Mitchell couldn't say yet exactly how many might be added next year, but he said there should be enough to accommodate all season-ticket holders in some fashion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Accolades pile up for Argos' Owens

Chad Owens has reached another high point in his stellar season after winning the CFL offensive player of the week award for his role in leading the Toronto Argonauts to a berth in the 100th Grey Cup.

The Toronto slotback registered a club playoff record 207 yards on 11 receptions in the Argonauts' 27-20 win over the Montreal Alouettes in the East Division final on Sunday. He had a 70-yard reception early in the third quarter that set up a momentum-grabbing touchdown for Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Argos slotback Chad Owens

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

MLB

Jays bring Gibbons back as manager

In one of the most hectic 24-hour periods in team history, the Toronto Blue Jays saved the biggest surprise for last.

Hot on the heels of having their mammoth 12-player trade with the Miami Marlins approved by Major League Baseball and finalizing a contract with controversial free-agent outfielder Melky Cabrera, the Blue Jays unexpectedly named John Gibbons as their new manager Tuesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. Players expected to table proposal on Wednesday

The ball is back in the hands of the NHL Players' Association.

With collective bargaining talks set to resume at the NHL head office on Wednesday morning, the union is expected to table a new proposal. It comes on the heels of a 90-minute meeting on Monday evening, where the league asked NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr to put together a comprehensive offer that includes how to split revenue and rules governing player contracts.

"We've never heard a full proposal from them," said deputy commissioner Bill Daly. "We've heard their pro-

More games under the axe?

The meeting on Wednesday comes at the same time the league is expected to cancel more games.

• According to sources, the

posal on economics, they're still suggesting that they're moving in our direction on economics. Until we know exactly where they stand on economics ... we think it's all tied together.

"We'd like to hear it all together."

In addition to revenue

NHL has decided to wipe the first two weeks of December off the schedule, which will bring the total lost during the lockout to more than 400 games.

split and player contract rules, the sides need to work out how to pay for the damage caused by the lockout. In the NHLPA's most recent offer, which was tabled Nov. 7, the union asked for the players' share of revenues to jump in fixed increments of 1.75 per cent each season,

starting from the \$1,883 billion they took in last year.

That proposal didn't include the mechanism that would be used to account for the reduced revenue generated during a shortened 2012-13 season.

The NHL would prefer a proposal based on a percentage of annual revenue.

"If their proposal continues to be a guaranteed player amount, sitting here on Nov. 19, that's not a proposal that would ever be acceptable to us," said Daly. "If that happens to be where we are, we will be a long way apart."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Be amazed by 2013 Avalon

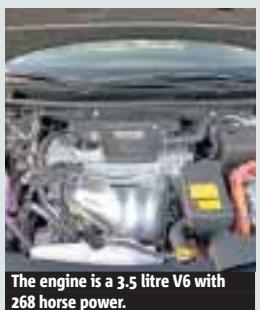


ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

5 DRIVE

Engine

Unchanged is the 268-horse-power 3.5-litre V6, although Toyota has tweaked the engine and installed an updated six-speed transaxle (with a quicker-shifting sport model selector) for improved fuel economy. Although you may have heard about an Avalon hybrid, that model is just destined for the U.S. right now.



The engine is a 3.5 litre V6 with 268 horse power.

2013 Toyota Avalon

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel drive, full-size entry level sedan
- **Engines (hp),** 3.6-litre DOHC V6 (268),
- **Transmission.** Six speed automatic.
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$38,500-\$40,500

Design

Overall, the look is more youthful and dramatic, especially the dual grille in front and the sweeping roofline that flows into the rear deck. More importantly, the Avalon now puts more distance between it and the smaller, less-luxury-oriented Camry from which it was spawned. This is a handsome car.

Suspension

The Avalon's suspension has also been beefed up with thicker anti-sway bars and stiffer springs for greater ride control. The electronic power steering system now has had some of its previous numbness dialed back. All of this is good news for a brand that has been previously criticized for its 1970s-era mushy handling traits.

Review. Lose the Lexus and save with the stylish new Avalon

**MALCOLM
GUNN**
Wheelbase Media

As competent as the 2013 Avalon is, the car has traditionally walked a fine line between its spot as Toyota's top-level sedan and the entry-luxury Lexus ES that is a portal to Toyota's up-market division.

That situation isn't likely to change for the 2013 model year with the arrival of the next-generation Avalon. Fortunately, however, the big sedan no longer dwells in the Camry's shadow, where it has performed in relative obscurity since its 1995 model-year arrival. The all-new edition receives more defining sheet metal courtesy of Toyota's Calty Design Research Division.

The Avalon's new and radically different sheet metal translates into a larger appearance, which is entirely illusionary, since the car is slightly thin-

ner than the 2012 version.

The new Avalon rides on the same basic platform and maintains the same distance between the front and rear wheels, yet the additional use of high-strength steel has helped reduce overall heft by a claimed 55 kilograms.

There shouldn't be any criticism leveled at its redesigned interior with its concave-shaped dashboard that exudes luxury. Leather-covered seats with improved side bolstering are standard, as is a large and legible touch-screen panel. Add a total of 10 standard airbags to the mix and you almost have to wonder why anyone would head over to the Lexus store for their premium sedan fix.

Here in Canada, the Avalon will be available in two trim levels beginning with the XLE (\$38,500), followed by the Limited, which costs about \$40,500.

Most importantly, however, Toyota's flagship should appeal to a wider audience that has likely passed on previous versions for their general lack of personality and for those who actually like to drive. Not anymore.



The Avalon's dashboard is futuristic and luxurious.



The front view shows off the new dual grille.

By comparison



1 Chrysler 300
Base price: \$34,500



2 Chevrolet Impala
Base price: \$32,000 est.



3 Ford Taurus
Base price: \$30,450

Are we going 'soft' on car quality?

Autopilot



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Vehicle quality used to be easy to describe. A window crank falling off in your hand? That was bad quality. A window crank not falling off? That was good quality.

Now most cars have fewer and fewer defects from the factory. So how are we assessing vehicle quality in this modern era?

Well the fine people at J.D. Power and Associates — who have been measuring initial vehicles after 90 days of ownership, every year for the last 26 — have determined that we're getting "soft" when it comes to assessing quality.

By "soft" they mean that we're more concerned about how well things work, rather than whether they work or not, because, well, they almost always do work.

Dave Sargent is the vice-

president at J.D. Power and Associates and heads up its Global Automotive practice. Last week, he spoke at the AutoTalk Canada conference in Toronto, and expounded about this evolution of quality perception.

He started his talk by noting that quality remains of paramount importance to consumers and that nothing else drives satisfaction, loyalty and image to the same de-

gree.

He also noted that the customer's perception of what constitutes quality is constantly evolving and will continue to do so. For one thing, we get used to great quality, and move on to things that tick us off.

This has meant quality issues are bleeding into areas we normally thought of as design. Basically, poor design is now seen as poor qual-

ity and customers consider these design problems as being just as severe as defects.

And the area most affected by poor design and subsequent "soft" problems is the interface between driver and vehicle. The infotainment and inter-connected wonderland is now the new quality battleground.

According to Sargent, for the first time in the 26-year history of the study, owners

report more problems related to audio, entertainment and navigation system than in any other vehicle area.

Speaking about the technological wonders coming in this area, Sargent had this to say: "Customers are excited. They are also confused and fearful. They need help."

The nature of the problems here are what's causing the confusion and fear. Take



Look closely, the quality is in the detail. Cars from three or four decades ago have very different problems than today's vehicles. HANDOUT

voice command for example, which has become the most-often-reported problem in the industry. If it doesn't work as you had hoped or expected, you have to live with it for the whole time you own the vehicle.

Your dealer could fix your window crank problem in one short visit. But he is often powerless to make your voice command system work to your satisfaction. And when this happens, it happens to every one of the units made, not just the ones where a line worker forgot to tighten the window crank.

Sargent believes dealerships could better support consumers in this area by doing a better job of explaining how these systems work during the delivery process. But he also noted another problem — consumers are becoming increasingly skeptical about the dealership's ability to handle today's complex vehicles.

Oh boy. Can't you just hear the automotive folks pining for the old days, when their major warranty problem was just loose nuts, and maybe a bit of rust.

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JIL
MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Clean air is always a must, especially when it comes to cars. Your vehicle contains air filters, which should be changed periodically to maintain your engine's health, as well as your own.

All engines use air filters, which remove dirt and particles before they can enter the combustion chamber. Most new cars also contain cabin filters, usually located in the dash behind the glove box, which clean the air in your heating and cooling system as it circulates.

"If you've left (the filter) for two years or more, it can become clogged," says Michael Minialoff, manager of automotive parts for Canadian Tire. "Not only do you not get effective heat, but your defroster won't work as well as it should, and ventilation will be compromised."

The filter handles fresh

air that comes in through exterior vents, as well as that which recirculates from the cabin through the heating and air conditioning ducts.

"It's kind of shocking how much debris can end up in there," Minialoff says. "The air inside your vehicle can be up to six times dirtier than the air outside, with road dust, debris, pet hair, pollen, or anything that could be floating around. These are paper filters and they should be changed about once a year or every 24,000 kilometres."

Your engine also contains an air filter, and it's a very important one. Gasoline must mix with air before it will burn, and for every litre of fuel, your engine will use 10,000 to 12,000 litres of air. All of this air is filtered to prevent dirt from entering and possibly damaging the engine.

Engine filters used to be made primarily of paper and were often checked by holding them up to a light — if the light didn't shine through, the filter was clogged and needed replacement. Today's filters contain several types of materials.

TIPS

- **Seats.** Some premium vehicles have air-conditioned seats. These may contain small filters, which should be changed when recommended.
- **Follow manual.** Replacing a cabin air filter isn't difficult and instructions can be found in your owner's manual or on the filter box.
- **Replace if need be.** Change your engine air filter when recommended: A dirty one will affect your fuel economy.

"This changes the opacity, so holding it up to a light really doesn't tell you anything," Minialoff says. "It should be changed following the recommended guidelines, either in your owner's manual or on the filter box."

Air filters should be changed more frequently if you regularly drive on dusty roads, in stop-and-go traffic, travel only short distances when your engine doesn't fully warm up, or if you're pulling a trailer or hauling heavy loads.



A clogged up air filter can damage your vehicle and cost you money in the long-term. HANDOUT



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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Life is good and about to get even better. You can't quite believe that? Well, you will when you begin to see that everything is going your way last. Keeping a positive attitude is easy when so many positive things are happening.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

The atmosphere at work may be less than harmonious today but don't make a big deal of it. Some of your colleagues are going through difficulties at the moment but it isn't your fault, so don't take it to heart.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Why are you still hung up about what a certain person said? Why can't you let it go? Maybe it's because you recognize there was an element of truth in it. So what? You never claimed to be perfect.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

If you allow too many thoughts to run through your head today, you will be easily confused. That, in turn, will lead to mistakes. Focus on the one thing that matters. More than one and you may mentally exhaust yourself.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

With the Sun beginning its transit of the most dynamic area of your chart, you honestly believe that all things are possible — and they are. Don't let anyone tell you that your dream is unattainable. They're wrong.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

The harder you have worked in recent weeks, the more you will need to relax a bit now. Spend time with your family and loved ones and don't think you have to do everything yourself. You've done enough.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Do what feels right to you today and don't worry in the slightest if other people disagree with you. They have no right to dictate what you should think, say or do — and you have a right to be yourself.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Make sure you keep a smile on your face over the next 24 hours. You have important matters to deal with and the burden you bear is considerable, but you'll bear it better if you think and look happy.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Everyone knows what you are capable of so you don't have to prove yourself in any way. Having said that, cosmic activity in your birth sign means you want to put on a show. Make it the best show.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

The Sun's change of signs today will encourage you to think deeply about your life and its meaning. Some people may say it doesn't have meaning and that your existence is hollow. But they are wrong, and you know it.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Try not to take anything too seriously today. According to the planets, you need to lighten up a little and the best way to do that is in the company of some of your way out friends. They'll make you laugh.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

The Sun's change of signs today will make you even more ambitious than usual, and that's good. However, your ambitions need to be tempered by the realization that causes always have consequences. Think before you act. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

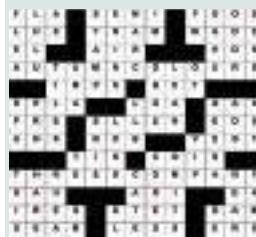
Across

- Auto navigational device (abbr.)
- Food scrap
- Term of respect
- Israeli airlines
- Foot digit
- E-mail request
- Actress — Flynn Boyle
- Small amount
- Operatic solo
- "You Belong with Me" singer/songwriter (2 words)
- Shoe width
- Railway extension
- Crown
- Student assignment
- Airport info.
- Summer cooler
- Ogles
- Breakfast order
- Model railroad gauge
- Musical group: — Vogue
- Praises
- Alike
- Poem
- Spring flower
- Chocolate cookie
- Geese formation
- Work for a living
- Lair
- Have dinner
- Actor of *Lethal Weapon* movies

Down

- Hair product
- A flat area of ground
- Gilbert of The Talk
- Beetle Bailey's pooch
- Lion sound
- Turner and Knight
- Slave
- Name abbr.
- Star of Stargate: SG-1 (init.)
- Hen
- Glides
- Jamie — Curtis
- Tiny
- Sophia's husband on The Golden Girls
- Prior to
- Anger
- Bag-like structure
- "Much — About Nothing"
- Japanese currency
- and Juliet
- Steep
- Stinging insect
- Little Orphan —
- Children's classic: The — Bears
- Auspice
- The — Boat
- Brainstorm
- Greet
- British transport
- Procreate
- Grass

Yesterday's Crossword



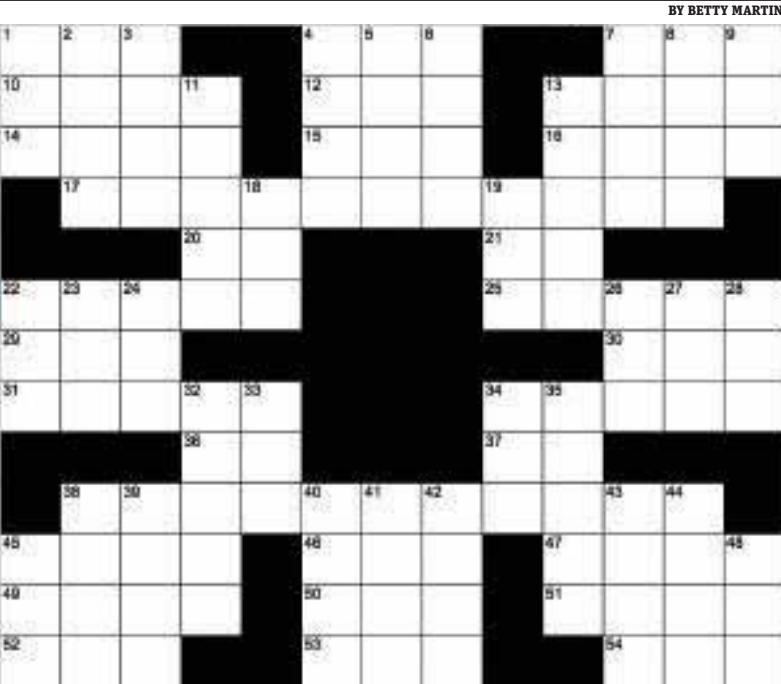
What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.



JENNA KHAN
WEATHER SPECIALIST

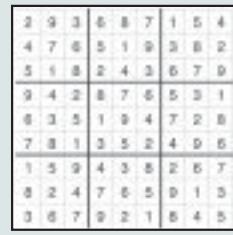
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Sudoku

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Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku



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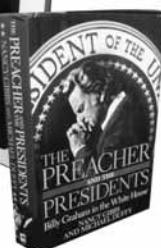


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